

BALLOON USED FOR SCOUT DUTY

Perilous Experiences of a Confederate Officer, Who Saw the Enemy From Dizzy Heights.

ROPE CUT AS HE ASCENDED

An Ascent That Completely Unnerved the Aeronaut, But He Finally Came Down Safely.

terest occurred, and it has been the obmany as possible of these in the Confederate Column of this paper.

headquarters before Yorktown, we conballoon was used by the Confed-

to Captain Bryan's, in that his balloon

jury in this adventure, the exploit

in Birmingham, Ala. He is the eldest brother of Mr. Joseph Bryan of this city, of Mr. St. George T. C. Bryan, and of the Rev. Braxton Bryan, of Petersburg. CAPTAIN BRYAN'S STOIKY. The story is given as told by Captain

himself tell me what he wanted me to do."
"After awhile I was called into General Johnston's tent, and the General, looking at me, and seeming surprised that I was only a boy (for I was just twenty-one years old), began to question me quite dosely as to what experience I had had in military affairs, how long I had been with the army, whether I could distinguish one branch of service from another, and the like.

other. I therefore took out my note-book and made a rough diagram showing the rivers, the reads and creeks, and marking where the different bedies of the enemy's troops were upon this little map, using the initial 'I for infantry, 'C' for cavairy, 'A' for artillers, and 'W' for wagon trains, and I marked down about the number of troops that I estimated at each point. Now, this was not such an easy thing to de, as we may at first suppose, for the various currents of air made my infloon spin and revolve, like a top (only very much slower), so that I must needs wait for a whole revolution to occur before I completed my sketch of any particular spot. Finally I gave the signal to lower the balloon, but hangly had I begun the descent when I saw that the enemy had prepared to give me a very warm reception as soon as I came within range, for they had run out a number of other interies, and stood by their guns proparting for firing and aiming them at the spot I must pass on my way to terra firms. I therefore gave the signal, 'inster-faster,' and the men at the windlass put forthe their best efforts, working in relays, and opened on me, firing this time by hat-teries, four and six at a time, and filling the air with shells and bullets, and how I escaped I do not know, for some of their shells passed very close to me. — CAME DOWN IN SAFFETY.

and I stopped out of my busic, in rode to General Johnston's headquarters to make my report. The General Jatened intently to what I told him, and asked very particularly as to the position of the officerant branches of the service, and asked their numbers, and spreading out his map on the table, made me show him where the different bodies of proops, artillery and so on, were posted! When I had dinished my report the General complimented me by saying I had done very well indeed. Therefore, at Jeaving I felt that my experiences were a thing of the past, and requested the General to assign me to the same duties which I had performed before I had joined him.

"My dean sir," replied the General, I fear you forget that you are the only experienced aeronaut that I have with my army, and you will please hold yourself in readiness, as we may wish you to make another ascension at any time!" I felt complimented, but I was not elated.

"That evening the whole balloon force was ordered to move to another point, some where neaser Yorktown, as the General did not think It safe that the balloon. This was that six artillery horses were hitched to the ond of the rope which passed through the windlass, and upon the signal to lower the balloon they were ridden up the road at a full gallop, which brought the balloon dates amont more quickly. In a day or two after a second neasent was much like the first one, but

who had already been nicknamed by his fellow-solders 'Balloon Bryan,' and who was suspected by them of having a screw loose somewhere on account of his mad trips in the air. General Johnston re-ceived the second report about as he did the first, but still refused to discharge me from the balloon service, but ordered me to held wyself in readiness.

"One night, just before the army fell back from Yorktown and fought the battle of Williamsburg (which was the 5th of May, 1862), the billion squad was waked up one night with orders from General Johnston to fire up the balloon and make a reconnoisance as soon as possible. The courier who brought the order informed one privately that information had been received at headquarters from had already made two assensions, and as this was to be a night trip, I had but little fear of discovery and of being fired on, especially as the enemy were now in motion, and when marching could not so well arrange for this artillery savioa. But there was a still greater dengar upon which I had never calculated. The Confedente troops, almost to a man, had never soon a bulloon, and each time that I was sent up they crowded around the bulloon squad to watch this novel performance, and amused themselves by making many and varied remarks, which were not very compilmentary upon the whole business and myself in particular. On this occarion the battoon, shining in the bright firelight, attracted a larger crowd than usual, and who, with but a few thousand men, were holding the Holos army in check. The line across the Positional was an irregulated the Holos army in check. The line across the Positional Across of the Positional Manne which is carefully strongthened their positions. Moreover, and the Holos arms and many the positions of the Position of the Positions of

myself being blown from the Confederate lines aver into those of the enemy. It is impossible to describe my feelings. I folt that I was not only leaving home and friends forever, but was slowily drifting to certain capacity. Interfere, my great delight when, after drifting along for sono distance, the wind veered and I was blown back town. (This assension had been made from a point back of Dam No. 2, 1, e., Wymn's Mill, on the Confederate lines, it was evident that the halloon was cooling and settling, so that I was getting nearer and nearer to the earth. This was in many respects a great comfort, but It was not unalleyed with new dangers. As I have, said, the halloon having now drawn near the earth (a few hundred feet nobye it, I suppose) I was blown from the enemy's lines over the Confederate army, but, finds in a far different locality from where I had assended. Therefore, when my buildon passed over the spot where Colonel Wards Second Florida Regiment was uncamped, they turned out en masse, and, believing me to be a Yankee spy, followed me on fout, firing at me as fast as they could. In valu I cried to them that I was a good Confederate; the only answer I received was from the whistling of their hullets. I was fast as they could. In valu I cried to them that I was a good Confederate; the only answer I received was from the whistling of their hullets. I was it, gove your readers in the "Ad."

well compute.
The information which I upon which the enemy were now moving enclosed him to prebare for an attack which was made by them early the next

I was among shose who awaited the don me if I say that it gave me no little satisfaction to aim my rifle at those who had so recently and so frequently taken a wing shot at me."

Yankee Doodle Dixie

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The Kellam Cancer Hospial. RICHMOND, VA.

Valuable Historical Statements By Col. William T. Poague,

CAPTAIN E. HOLMES BOYD

The Rockbidge Artillery and Col.

Hon, Robert T. Barton, of Winchester,

who won a brave name as a soldier are legislator, speaker and author that he

I reported the fact to Captain Pendlett who directed me to find a place for end put it to work. This I did, placid it on the right of Alburtis and beyon

In reading the reports of those two of-floers, one would infer that discretion was left to Jackson as to the proper moment for his charge.

6. In the hottest of the fight, when the pines in the roar were being splin-tered by the enemy's shots, Tom Martin, an Irlshman in our company, exclaimed, "Old Abe is again at his trade of making rath."

the woods.

8. I do not think Kirby Smith was on the field when Jackson sent forward the Fourth and Twenty-seventh. He was

tenant Brockenbrough succeeded him, or

criticised in a published article for failure of duty as alleged, and the credit of commanding the battery in this battle given to the first lieutenant.

10. A limber chest of Stanard's was blown up, and not a caisson.

11. Boyd is in error as to Davis being elected a lieutenant at that time, J. McD. Alexander was elected second lieutenant, and Archie Graham, Jr., second iloutenant.

I like to tell an incident in connection with Jackson that day. After the artillery retired to the crest on which the Lewis House stood, and some little while after the Fourth and Twenty-seventh were very near us. They had been sent into the charge, I went down to the brook in our front to get some water. There I found General Jackson acalling on the men, some hundreds of whom had drifted there from their Irokan commands in the earlier part of the fight, to form line along the little stream. After getting them in some sort of shape he advanced some paces to the front, turned his horse to face the line and cried in his shrill tones as he pointed towards the battlefield: "Now, men, if you see any Yankoes coming out of those pines up there give them—popper!" At this, there was a burst of laughtor from the men, when Old Jack, turning in his saddle as he spurred to the front, shouled back: "Aand sait, toe" This was greated w..., a roar of laughter, followed by some dispasing remarks from a Louisiane Tiger about "that fellows kind of swearins."

This incident impressed ms with Jackson, in particle of the committee of the contingency at the captular Pendleton was the committee of the contingency at the captular pendleton was the committee of the captular pendleton was the c Lewis House stood, and some little white after the Fourth and Twenty-seventh had been sent into the charge, I went down to the brook in our front to get some water. There I found General Jackson calling on the men, some hundreds of whom had diffited there from their broken commands in the earlier part of the fight, to form line along the little stream. After getting them in some sort of shape he advanced some paces to the front, turned his horse to face the line and cried in his shrill tones as he pointed towards the battlefield: "Now, men, if you see any Yankoes coming out of these pines up there give them—popper!" At this, there was a burst of laughter from the men, when old Jack, turning in his saddle as he spurred to the front, shouled back: "Aand sait, too!" This was greeted w... a roar of laughter, followed by some dispaging remarks from a Louisiana Tiger about "that fellows kind of swearing." This incident impressed ms with Jackson's full comprehension of the situation, his clear-headedness and self-possession in providing for every contingency at the critical hour of that memorable day.

W. T. PoAGUE,

tillery marched all the way. Hence the infantry arrived before the artillery. The position we occupied on the 20th and early morning of the 21st was, according to my lag to make a stand at Young's Br

position we occupied on the 20th and carly morning of the 11st was, according to my recollection in the rear of both Mitchells and McLean's ford, and I suppose we were at first held as a reserve. At any rate we could have easily reinforced our troops at other of these two fords or at Blackburn's.

An hour or two after we first heard the firing on our left, General Jackson took the five regiments of his brigade—Second, Fourth, Fifth, Twenty-seventh and Thirty-third Virginia—in the direction of the firing, leaving the artillery in camp, although we had hitched up and were ready to move at a moment's notice. The men of the battery were very indignant at being left behind and foit that it was a reflection upon thom for General Jackson to take the infantry and not the artillery into the fight.

THE BATTERY MOVES TO THE LEFT.

In a short time, howover, how long J cannot say, General Joseph E. Johnston came along in a gallop with his staff, going in the direction of the frink, and ordered Captain (now colone) Pendleton to follow with his own and another battery. Alburtis (Wise) of Martinglang, I fhink. At any rate, I remember seeing at the time Boyd Faulkner (now Judge of the Bertley and Jefferson Circuit), and he belonged to the Alburtis' Company.

Wa had four pleces to our battery.

sefferson Circuit), aid he belonged to the Alburtis' Company.

We had four pieces in our battery, one hewitzer and three brass six-pounders, two of them being guns that the cadeis at the institute drilled with and pulled themselves. The guns had limber chests but no caissons. We had a four-horse wagon, covered with a tarpaulla, for a caisson. These six-pounders are still at the institute and a few years ago were still used by the cadets in drilling.

THE POSITIONS NEAR THE HENRY

When we had reached the field there were several batteries in position on the edge of the plateau, a few hindred yards from the lienry house. The topography of the ground occupied by our

about "that fellows kind of swearing."
This incident impressed me with Jackson's full comprehension of the situation, his clear-headedness and self-possession in providing for every contingency at the principal hour of that memorable day,

W. T. POAGUE.

(By E. Holmes Boyd, of Winchester.)
When the First Brigade of the Army of the Shenandoah (after known as the bionewall Brisado) was formed and Colsonewall Brisado was formed and colsonewall Brisado) was attached to it, and in fact made a part of the brigade and continued to be a part until the occamisation of the artillery into battallons in the fail of 182.

The battery reached Managsas from Winchester on the 20th of July and went at once to the brigade and content of the artillery from biomatory form the Valley to Manassas, vis: The Rockbridge, Imboden's, Alburities, Sinandard's (Thomss Artillery, from Frederick county of the regiment went by rail from Piedford Piedford of West The regiment went by rail from Piedford Piedford of West The regiment went by rail from Piedford Piedford of West The regiment went by rail from Piedford Piedfo

gallent Pelham" was with Alburtis's Battery.

Imboden's Battery was with Be and Bartow, when they were driven back, and did good service, but was not in action at the same time we were. He was heavily engaged before the Rockbridge, and Alburtis's batterles came upon the field. Jackson in-his report characterized Imboden as dauntiess. His battery was "The Staunton Artillery," which afterwards under Captain A. W. Garber, now of Richmond, rendered splendid service, until the close at Appomatiox.

A limber chest exploded during the fight, and I think it belonged to Stannard. JOHNSTON AND BEAUREGARD ON

JOHNSTON AND BEAUREGARD ON THE LINES.

The Rev. Dr. Hyde (chaplain-general of the State camp) who commanded the Moorefield (Hardy county) Company of the Thirty-third at Manassas, says: 7 and County in the Cartes, in the state of the County in the County the Thirty-third at Manasas, says: 7041 General Johnston and Beauregard came riding together from the artillery line to the extreme left of the brigade, (the Thirty-third was the left) and this was just about the time that Kirby Smith made his charge, or rather Elsey, as Kirby Smith was wounded while he was forming his brigade and Elsey, took command. This confirms my memory that Johnston and Beauregard were together when the latter gave Jackson the older, but I was not certain. E. MOLMES BOYD.

RICHMOND HOWITZERS: THEIR LAST FIGHT

The Bettery Flag and What Became of It-An Interesting Letter.

Editor Times-Dispatch:

Sir-The following personal letter was not written for publication, but I am sure will be of interest to all Howitzers, especially the account of the company's fig. I therefore take the liberty of asking space for it in the Confederate column.

Very truly

JOHN W. TODD.

Staunton, Va., 1996.

flag out of the limber chess and, which Peter Williams, went into the bushes where I out two holos in it for my arms and put it on under my shirt. I wore it until we got back from North Carolina to Halifax county. Then, everything having been lost, and not thinking there was any future, I took it off and we cut it up and threw the pieces in a creek. What would we not give to have it now? That you may the better recall me to your memory, I was the old No. 1 of the first piece and was made corporal soon after we got to the Dunn House in the summer of '64. Hoping all is well with you and yours and that we may yet meet this side of the river, I am,

Your old comrade,

W. KEAN.

Prof. Humphrey's Diary.

Prof. Humphrey's Diary.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir.—The diary of Professor M. W. Humphreys, which was recently published under my introduction in the Conrederate column contained a number of expressions which should have been erased or corrected before it restricted printer's ink. It is due to misadvanture that these crasures or corrections were not made, which Professor Humphrey regrets. I do also regret the circumstance, and am gware that the professor would have eliminated the expressions referred to had he anticipated the publication. I had supposed that be inferred the publication would be made by the mature of our correspondence, but in abundance of caution, wrote him at Charlottesville to that erfect, and informed him that unless I heard from him I would not accordingly. As it chanced he left Charlottesville, and did not get my letter in due season, and I proceeded as indicated therein.

His does not hidme me, the gist and kind spirit he has shown intensifies my regret that however, innocently. I have occasioned arrogance to that honorable and obliging seatleman.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN W. DANIEL.

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